



## A Note from Jones Leadership

1 message

Thu, Nov 3, 2022 at 9:53 PM

Dear Jones Students:

Earlier this week, we informed our staff and families about a situation where a member of our school community wore a German military uniform to school as a Halloween costume.

As more information has come to light, including additional video of the incident and through conversations with our staff and students, we realize that this has greatly impacted our community and acknowledge that we should have handled the incident with greater care, and communicated more clearly with the school community about the nature of the incident.

Let me say clearly and plainly that what occurred caused harm to many of our students and staff who recognized this as an act of antisemitism. Let me also say clearly and plainly that intolerance, bigotry, and bias-based behaviors have no place in our school.

We want you to know that we are addressing this situation directly with the member of our school community who wore the costume in accordance with protocols for processing bias-based harm. The Chicago Public Schools Office of Student Protections (OSP) is providing support to our school community as we address this matter. To protect privacy, we cannot provide any additional information.

We know that we have a broader obligation to our school community to address the harm that has been caused and prevent future harm. As educators, we have an outsized obligation to teach our young people to practice tolerance and acceptance. This is especially important as we have seen a rise in hateful speech and hateful acts in our country and in our communities in recent years.

Our goal in the wake of this incident is to make sure that all students and staff feel safe, heard, and supported, and to put steps in place to help our school community heal and become educated on bias-based harm.

Beginning tomorrow, and throughout the coming days, we will have support on site from a number of CPS central offices including OSP, the Office of Social and Emotional Learning, the Office of Safety and Security, the Equity Office, and the Department of Social Science and Civic Engagement. We will have space for students to process the harm they've experienced in small groups, or individually. We will also be ready to receive any other reports of specific harm students have experienced. We will continue to communicate steps that our school is taking and resources that will be offered to engage our students on bias-based harm. School administration will be able to direct students to the available supports.

We deeply regret the pain that this incident has caused our school community, and we ask for your partnership as we address this situation and move forward together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Powers